

Message Text

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TAGS: OECD, ECON
SUBJECT: ANNOTATED AGENDA OF MARCH 3-4 XCSS

ANNOTATED AGENDA OF MARCH 3-4 OECD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
IN SPECIAL SESSION FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

THIS ITEM CALLS FOR NO SPECIAL COMMENTS

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

DELEGATIONS ARE INVITED TO GIVE NOTICE OF ANY QUESTIONS
THEY MIGHT WISH TO RAISE UNDER ITEM 6 QUOTE OTHER
BUSINESS UNQUOTE.

THE CHAIRMAN RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE SUGGESTIONS AS
TO THE ORDER IN WHICH THE DIFFERENT ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
ARE TO BE CONSIDERED.

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3. ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES - A
GLOBAL APPROACH

IN THE PRESENT GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, WITH THE
MANY UNCERTAINTIES AS TO THE STRENGTH OF THE ECONOMIC
RECOVERY, THE PERSISTENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT

AND SERIOUS BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS DISEQUILIBRIA, THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN PRESSURES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF TRADE RELATIONS. THERE ARE ALREADY SIGNS OF INCREASED DIFFICULTIES IN CERTAIN SECTORS (SHIPBUILDING, STEEL, TEXTILES, FOOTWEAR, ETC.).

IT IS THE TASK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION TO RE-PLACE THE TRADE PROBLEMS IN THE WIDER CONTEXT, TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSES OF THESE PROBLEMS AND TO DETERMINE JUST HOW SERIOUS THEY ARE.

IN THIS THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WILL HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING IN THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE AND ITS WORKING PARTY NO. 3. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WILL MAKE A SHORT ORAL REPORT ON THESE DISCUSSIONS, GIVING THE VIEW OF THE SECRETARIAT ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT AND BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROBLEMS, WITH REFERENCES TO THE ENERGY SITUATION.

THE REPORT SHOULD ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO TAKE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT, IN ITS ASSESSMENT OF OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS, THE ELEMENTS FOR INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS RESULTING FROM THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE.

HAVING REGARD TO THE MEDIUM TERM STRATEGY AGREED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES AT THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL LAST JUNE - A STRATEGY WHICH, ONE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY ASSUME, WILL NEED TO BE SUPPLEMENTED AND STRENGTHENED ON CERTAIN POINTS - DELEGATES WILL BE INVITED TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON WAYS OF DOVETAILING THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION: SURVEILLANCE OF THE BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS ADJUSTMENT PROCESS, POLICIES WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING THE OVERALL DEFICIT OF MEMBER COUNTRIES (PARTICULARLY IN THE ENERGY FIELD), TREATMENT OF SECTORAL PROBLEMS, MEASURES TO PREVENT REPERCUSSIONS OF NATIONAL DIFFICULTIES AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, ETC.

IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE MIGHT TAKE STOCK OF THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE APPLICATION OF THE TRADE PLEDGE, AND CONSIDER THE BROAD OPTIONS CONCERNING ITS POSSIBLE RENEWAL, AS REQUESTED BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS LAST MEETING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL. DISCUSSION WILL BE BASED ON A REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRADE COMMITTEE ON THE WORK IN PROGRESS ON THIS QUESTION IN HER COMMITTEE.

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A NOTE BY THE SECRETARIAT (CE(77)2) WILL CONTAIN FULLER SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE GLOBAL APPROACH THAT APPEARS NECESSARY IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

IN THE LIGHT OF THIS DOCUMENT, THE COMMITTEE WILL BE EXPECTED TO GIVE INDICATIONS AND DIRECTIVES THAT CAN BE USED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WITH A VIEW TO THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT THE COUNCIL AT THE LEVEL OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL FOLLOW THE DAY-TO-DAY PREPARATIONS FOR THAT MEETING.

4. ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A CERTAIN NUMBER OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION: THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE CIEC HAS BEEN POSTPONED, DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE PETROLEUM-EXPORTING COUNTRIES, AND POLITICAL

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CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CERTAIN MEMBER COUNTRIES.

IT IS IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTORS THAT THE COMMITTEE MIGHT STUDY THE PROSPECTS FOR THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

(A) PROSPECTS FOR THE DIALOGUE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CIEC

THE QUOTE GROUP OF EIGHT UNQUOTE (INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CIEC) WILL HAVE MET ON THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION, AND THE CANADIAN DELEGATION HAS ANNOUNCED ITS READINESS TO MAKE AN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS.

THE COMMITTEE MIGHT THEN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(I) WHAT ARE THE NEW ELEMENTS LIKELY TO INFLUENCE THE ROLE AND RESULTS OF THE CIEC?

- THESE ELEMENTS RELATE PRIMARILY TO THE SITUATION IN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND NON-PETROLEUM-PRODUCING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (CF. ITEM 3 OF THE AGENDA);
- ACCOUNT MUST AT THE SAME TIME BE TAKEN OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF POLITICAL FACTORS, FOR EXAMPLE THE CHANGES IN RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE GROUP OF 19 AND THE OPEC, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A SUMMIT MEETING OF THE MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES.

(II) ALTHOUGH IT IS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE, THE CIEC IS ONLY ONE OF THE FORMS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDUSTRIALIZED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. DISCUSSIONS ARE ALSO TAKING PLACE ELSEWHERE, IN UNO, UNCTAD, THE GATT, THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE, ETC. WHAT LINKS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THESE DIFFERENT FORMS OF DIALOGUE? MORE PRECISELY, IN WHAT WAY CAN A MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE CIEC HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS IN OTHER FORA?

(III) WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP EXISTS TODAY
BETWEEN THE MAIN SUBJECTS DEALT WITH IN THE CIEC?
IN THE LIGHT OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PETROLEUM-
EXPORTING COUNTRIES, WHAT LINK SHOULD EXIST BETWEEN
THE RESULTS IN THE ENERGY FIELD AND IN OTHER FIELDS?
CAN ANY PROGRESS BE MADE IN THE FIELD OF RAW MATERIALS?
IS THE PRESENT SITUATION FAVORABLE TO NEW CONCESSIONS
IN THE FORM OF TRANSFERS OF RESOURCES (AID, PRIVATE
INVESTMENT, INDEBTEDNESS, COMPENSATORY FINANCING)?
TO WHAT EXTENT WILL POSSIBLE CONCESSIONS BY THE IN-
DUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HAVE TO BE MATCHED BY COMMIT-
MENTS ON THE PART OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES?

(B) LONGER-TERM PROSPECTS FOR THE DIALOGUE

THERE ARE ALREADY SEVERAL QUESTIONS THAT MUST BE
PUT IN THIS CONNECTION:

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(I) DO THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES PLAN TO
FOLLOW UP - IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER - THE CONTACTS MADE
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CIEC? IN OTHER WORDS, ASSUM-
ING THAT THE CIEC COMES TO A RAPID AND SATISFACTORY
CONCLUSION, WOULD IT BE APPROPRIATE TO EMBARK ON A

FORM OF A GLOBAL, STRUCTURED DIALOGUE?

(II) ASSUMING THAT THE REPLY TO THE PREVIOUS QUESTION IS IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, IN WHAT FORM SHOULD THIS DIALOGUE CONTINUE?

THE CIEC EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN AMBIGUOUS IN CERTAIN RESPECTS. IT WOULD IN FACT APPEAR THAT THE WORD "DIALOGUE" COVERED TWO DISTINCT REALITIES:

- ON THE ONE HAND, AN ATTEMPT AT JOINT REFLECTION ON THE GIVEN ELEMENTS OF THE SITUATION, LEADING TO USEFUL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS ON THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS;

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- ON THE OTHER HAND, AN ATTEMPT AT OVERALL NEGOTIATION WITH A VIEW TO CONCRETE RESULTS.

(III) THE QUESTION IS THEREFORE, WHETHER, IN FUTURE, A FRAMEWORK SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE CIEC SHOULD BE USED, MAINLY WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING A MEETING OF MINDS BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FACTS, OR AS A CENTRAL FORUM FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

(IV) FINALLY, ONE MAY ASK THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION WHETHER IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, IN FUTURE, TO DISCUSS THE WHOLE RANGE OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN A SINGLE FORUM OR, ON THE CONTRARY, TO DEAL WITH THE DIFFERENT ISSUES IN A DECENTRALIZED MANNER, IN SEPARATE FORA, ADAPTED TO THE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF EACH?

THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS IS OBVIOUSLY INSEPARABLE FROM THE DEFINITION OF AN OVERALL STRATEGY (MEANS AND ENDS) FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES VIS-A-VIS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THIS QUESTION WAS RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT IT BE CONSIDERED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CIEC CAME TO AN END. SEVERAL STUDIES ARE IN PROGRESS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND SHOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO CONTRIBUTE IN DUE COURSE TO ACTIVE REFLECTION ON THIS MATTER.

ON ALL THESE ITEMS, IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION CAN GIVE GUIDANCE AND DIRECTIVES FOR THE WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN OR CONTINUED IN THE VARIOUS BODIES OF THE ORGANIZATION,

AND IN THE SECRETARIAT.

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5. EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS

UNDER THIS ITEM OF THE AGENDA, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IS TO MAKE A SHORT REPORT ON THE WORK IN PROGRESS IN THE ORGANIZATION.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

END TEXT.

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